

Longwood
Rd Council

Medical officers
Annual report

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE KINGSWINFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1919.

Births.—Five hundred and twenty-one births were registered during the year; two hundred and eighty males, two hundred and forty-one females giving a birth rate of 23·6 per thousand of the population. Eighteen births were illegitimate, seven males, eleven females. The birth rate is practically the same as for 1918.

Deaths.—Two hundred and fifty-five deaths were registered during the year. One hundred and forty-one males, one hundred and fourteen females, giving a death rate of 12 per thousand of the estimated population. This is a lower death rate than in 1918 when it was 17 per thousand of the population.

Zymotic Mortality.—Eight deaths were due to Zymotic disease, giving a death rate of 35 per thousand of the population. One death was due to measles, one to pertussis, and six to diarrhoea. There was no epidemic diarrhoea, and I should say these six cases were due to faulty feeding.

Infantile Mortality.—Thirty-nine deaths of infants under one year of age occurred, giving a death rate of 75 per thousand births. The notification of births, has been well complied with.

Natural Conditions of District.—The Rural District of Kingswinford is partly urban and thickly populated and partly open and rural. One portion of this district has a sandy, porous, sub-soil and the rest has a clayey heavy sub-soil. The chief occupations are Ironworks, Coal Mines, Glass Works, and Brick Works. The more Rural portion is mostly Agricultural.

There are no Voluntary Hospitals in the District, but the inhabitants utilise the Dudley Guest Hospital and the Amblecote Corbett Hospital. There is an Isolation Hospital situated in Stallings Lane, which has proved to be quite sufficient for the needs of the district.

The treatment and isolation of Smallpox is provided for by a general County Scheme.

Water Supply.—The district is supplied by Staffordshire Water Works and Stourbridge Water Works. The Water is good but hard.

Streams.—There are two small streams, Wordsley Brook and Manse Brook. These are kept clean periodically and are not polluted.

Drainage.—The district has a main drainage system, the sewers of which are laid to a Sewage Farm belonging to the Council. In some isolated parts the privy midden system still exists. Out of 4500 houses 3700 are connected with the main sewers and provided with water closets. In a short time it is expected that all houses will be connected up.

Scavenging.—The removal of House Refuse is done by the Council in three of the Wards and by contract in the fourth Ward. This arrangement has worked entirely satisfactorily and there have been very few complaints. During recent years seven hundred and fifty covered ashbins have been provided and the policy of the Council is to gradually increase this number.

Sanitary Inspection.—A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects discovered, and the actions taken and the result is appended in the tables at the end of this report.

Schools.—All the Schools in the district (with the exception of one on which notice has been served) are properly supplied with water, drainage and all sanitary conveniences.

Milk Supply.—The Milk Supply of the district is quite satisfactory. There are forty-one cow sheds and six milk sellers. The cow sheds are periodically inspected and kept white-washed and in a clean condition. The utensils of the milk sellers are also closely watched.

Other Foods.—There are fifteen slaughter houses in the district. They are all in good condition and clean and are periodically inspected. There is no public Abattoir.

INFECTIOUS DESEASE.

Scarlet Fever.—Only eight cases of this disease were reported during the year. No death occurred.

Enteric Fever.—No case was reported.

Erysipelas.—Two cases were notified. No death.

Diphtheria.—No case.

Pertussis.—A mild epidemic occurred in late Spring and one death was reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case was reported and made a good cure.

Measles.—Seventy-six cases were reported. A mild epidemic occurred end of June, in the Pensnett Ward, and it was necessary to close the Pensnett Bromley School from July 8th to September 1st.

Influenza.—Fifteen deaths occurred from this disease as against sixty-two deaths in 1918. The disease was of a much milder type, though fairly well distributed and effecting a large number of people.

Tuberculosis Disease.—Eighteen deaths occurred from this disease, eleven cases were notified during the year, nine Pulmonary, one Intestinal, one Laryngeal. The ages were, one from ten to fifteen years, six from fifteen to twenty-five years, three from twenty-five to thirty-five years, one over thirty-five years.

This disease is dealt with by the Dudley, Staffordshire and Wolverhampton Joint Tuberculosis Committee. There is still a great difficulty in getting patients into Sanatoria. This I am led to believe is due to the fact that ex-soldiers, quite properly, have to be provided for before the civilian population. Tubercular patients are visited by the Health Visitor and everything possible is done.

Venereal Diseases.—There is no actual provision for dealing with these cases in the district itself, but there are Clinics at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and at Kidderminster, and another Clinic is shortly to be established at the Corbett Hospital.

Smallpox.—No case occurred or has done so for years.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Inspection of Midwives is carried out by the County Council.

The Council during 1919 had only one Health Visitor, but I am glad to say another has been appointed. In addition to ordinary Health Visiting the Health Visitor inspects the schools and school children, and acts as visitor to the homes of Tuberculous patients. Up to date there is no Welfare Centre in the district, as the Council are of opinion that the time of the Health Visitor is much better utilised in house to house visiting. Now that we have two Health Visitors the question of providing Welfare Centres will be again considered. The general condition of the school children as regards cleanliness, freedom from vermin, and general tidiness of clothes and boots has much improved.

A detailed resumé of the Health Visitors work for the year will be found in the Appendix.

Sanitary Administration.—(1.) There is one Sanitary Inspector for the district.

(2.) There is an Isolation Hospital with forty-eight beds. The Isolation of Smallpox is dealt with under a joint county scheme.

(3.) The Council have an arrangement with Birmingham University, (Pathological Department), for the examination of Sputum, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

This privilege is made full use of by the medical men practising in the district.

A good supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided for cases unable to meet the expense.

Housing.—(1.) There are four thousand five hundred houses in the district. Up to date no new houses for the working class have been erected.

(2.) The population is estimated at 22,008. The rise and fall of the population is practically negligible.

(3.) There is an estimated shortage of two hundred and twelve houses. The Council have in hand a scheme to build this number in the near future, and are using every endeavour to get on with the work, at the earliest possible moment. They have devoted a great deal of earnest attention to this matter, and have been acting under the advice of a well-known architect.

Overcrowding.—(1.) There is a considerable amount of overcrowding due to shortage of houses, young people getting married and having no house to go to, and consequently being compelled to stay with their parents. In most of these cases no action has been possible.

Fitness of Houses.—The general standard of houses is good. The chief defects are faulty roofs and spouting and the paving of the yards. During the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven defects of various character, have been remedied in spite of the great expense, and shortage of labour and material.

Unhealthy Areas.—There is one area of this description, and it is intended to deal with it immediately the new houses are completed.

Appendices.—(1). There has been no complaint that any house is unfit for human habitation.

(2). Five hundred and eighty-two dwelling houses have been inspected. One was considered unfit for human habitation, and has been closed.

(3). Nil.

(4). One. One Closing Order has been made and not yet determined.

(5). No Demolition Order has been made.

(6). Three.

(7). None.

(8). The Medical Officer of Health, and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

GUY GRINDLAY.

M. 13.

Causes of Death during the Year 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	-	-	-	-	141	114
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-		1
Influenza	-	-	-	-	10	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	9	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	-	-	-	-	3	11
Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-	-		1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	2	1
Organic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	14	8
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	11	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	-	-	18	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	2	2
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	-	-	-	-	4	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	-	-	-	-	7	2
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-		2
Congenital Debility &c	-	-	-	-	7	5
Violence, apart from suicide	-	-	-	-	5	3
Suicide	-	-	-	-	3	1
Other defined diseases	-	-	-	-	40	35
Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	-	-	-	2	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	-	-	-	-	25	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	-	-	-	-	280	241
Legitimate	-	-	-	-	273	230
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	7	11
POPULATION for Birth Rate	-	-	-	-	22,008	
" for Death Rate	-	-	-	-	21,127	

TABLE XV.—**Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919**
(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this table.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 Total POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.							RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.*			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping cough.	Diphtheria	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Cases of Death.
England and Wales -	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns, in- cluding London (Census Popula- tions exceeding 50,000)	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
148 Smaller Towns (Census Popula- tions 20,000-50,000)	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

(Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances).

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF :—		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
Factories ..	13	1	
Workshops } Workplaces }	91	2	
Total ..	104	3	

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.	
	Found.	Remedied
(1) Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—		
Want of cleanliness ..	4	4
Want of ventilation ..	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—
Other Nuisances ..	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
Insufficient ..	2	2
Unsuitable or Defective ..	1	1
(2) Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts ..	—	—
(3) Other Offences ..	—	—
Total ..	7	7

3.—Homework.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers' Lists Section 107.			Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108		Outwork in infected premises, Sections 109, 110.	
	Lists received from Employers.						
	Sending twice in the year.						
	Outworkers.						
	Lists.	Contractors	Workmen.				
Wearing Apparel :— (1) Making, etc.	2	—	3				
Total	2	—	3				
				Instances.		Instances.	
				Notices served.		Orders made.	

4.—Registered Workshops.

WORKSHOPS REGISTERED AT THE END OF THE YEAR.	Number
Bakers	10
Dressmakers	15
Boatbuilders	1
Blacksmiths	4
Tailors	4
Boot Repairers	13
Saddlers	3
Breeze Washing	2
Patternmakers	1
Milliners	3
Cogmakers	5
Cabinet Making	1
Wheelwrights	3
Upholsterers	1
Total number of Workshops on Register	66

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

December 31st, 1918—December 31st, 1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1919.

Births	First visits paid ..	415
	Re-visits	788
		<hr/> 1203
Ante Natal	Visits paid ..	154
Consultation	" " ..	207
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	Re-visits paid ..	6
Measles	First visits paid ..	83
	Revisits	22
		<hr/> 105
Tuberculosis	First visits paid ..	20
	Re-visits	163
		<hr/> 183
Schools	First visits paid ..	53
	Re-visits	58
	Special	8
		<hr/> 119
Homes of Verminous Children	Visits paid ..	363
" " Children with minor skin ailments ..	" " ..	260
" " Children otherwise neglected ..	" " ..	98
	Total	<hr/> 2698
Total Number of Children examined ..		8257
" " " " found verminous		363
" " " " excluded from school		14
" " " " returned clean ..		359
" " " " with minor skin ailments		260

Yours obediently,

December 31st, 1919.

A. E. COOPER.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

ANNUAL REPORT for the Year 1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the work in my department during the year 1919, is as follows:—

Number of Sanitary Defects, etc., on the books at the end of 1918	..	..	226
Number reported during the year 1919	..	..	2000
		Total	2226
Number abated during year 1919	..	..	1997
Number on the books at the end of year 1919	..	..	229

The list of visits and inspections made during the year 1919, is as follows:—

Infected Premises	..	..	120
Nuisances, Foul Conditions, etc.	..	..	569
Work in progress	..	..	320
Work done	..	..	271
Work ordered	..	..	241
Owners or Agents	..	..	175
Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	..	..	76
Bakehouses	..	..	32
Workshops or Work Places	..	..	46
Dairies, Cowsheds, or Milkshops	..	..	55
Drain Tests	..	..	91
House to House Inspections	..	..	582
Shops Act	..	..	64
Canal Boats	..	..	5
Petrol Stores	..	..	5
Refuse Removal	..	..	3099
Other Visits	..	..	1122
		Total	6873

The List of Nuisances abated and work carried out during the year 1919, is as follows:—

Houses disinfected	33
Houses cleansed	82
Houses properly ventilated	—
Cases of overcrowding abated	—
Damp proof courses provided	—
Spouting cleansed or repaired	159
Privys abolished	16
Privys converted to W.C.'s	17
New W.C.'s provided	32
W.C.'s repaired	121
Closets cleansed	49
Ashpits abolished	6
Ashpits repaired	19
Ashbins provided	11
Urinals repaired or closed	1
Drains repaired	44
Drains opened and cleansed	113
Houses properly drained	33
Gully Traps provided	33
Brick Sinks abolished	12
Sanitary Sinks provided	13
Sinks repaired	38
Yards paved or repaired	81
Repairs to dwelling houses	656
Repairs to wash houses	349
Wash houses cleansed	32
Accumulations removed	16
Pig Nuisances abated	2
Separate water supply provided	5
Manure receptacles provided or repaired	—
Water removed from cellars	1
Workshops cleansed or repaired	—
Slaughter houses cleansed or repaired	1
Cowsheds " " "	22
Other work done	—
Total	<u>1997</u>

Annual Report of the Removal of House Refuse and Night Soil for Year 1919.

This work is done by the Council's own teams in the three Wards of :—Brockmoor, Pensnett, and St. Mary's, and in the Wordsley Ward by a Contractor.

WARD.	Pits Emptied.	Bins Emptied.	Loads Removed.
Brockmoor ..	409	3661	1996
Pensnett ..	549	3324	2756
Wordsley ..	499	4383	1663
St. Mary's ..	416	4638	2145
Totals	1873	16006	8560

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—There are 41 cowsheds in the district, and 6 milk sellers. The premises have been inspected, and are kept clean, and the periodical lime washing done.

Slaughter Houses.—There are 19 slaughter houses, 14 are registered and 5 are licensed. Four of these are closed, and not being used. The premises have been visited and inspected, and are kept clean and in good order. No meat has been seized, but a small portion has been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Factories and Workshops.—The principal workshops are :—Bakehouses, Dressmaking. Millinery, Tailoring, and Boot Repairing. There are 10 Bakehouses, and 56 of the other classes registered. These are kept clean, and in a fair state of repair.

House to House Inspections.—During the year 582 houses have been visited and systematically inspected.

House Drainage.—33 houses have been properly drained and connected to the Council's sewers. 16 insanitary privys have been abolished, 17 insanitary privys have been converted to water closets, and 32 new water closets have been provided.

G. T. CUMMINGS,

Sanitary Inspector.

**Report of the Inspector under the Canal Boats
Acts, 1877-1884, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1919.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that I have inspected 19 canal boats at different times, and in various parts of the district.

The whole of the boats were found to be clean and in good condition. There were no cases of overcrowding or infectious disease found on board, and there were no contraventions of the Canal Boats Acts, or the regulations made under the same.

Your obedient servant,

G. T. CUMMINGS,

Inspector of Nuisances, etc.